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leader



MARCONI STALLIONS

VS

SOUTH MELBOURNE

Sunday 31st October, 1999 - Marconi Stadium: 6.00pm

Round 5 - 1999/2000 National Soccer League

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Joe Mirigliani

Gear Steward:

Mark Crittenden

Youth Team Coach:

Jean Paul De Marigny

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R-E-S-P-E-C-T

"Just a little bit...Just a little bit of respect: R-E-S-P-E-C-T" - Aretha Franklin sang it loud and proud. However Australian sport, and indeed society, conjures a traditional and somewhat curious trait whereby we seem to take a perverse sort of pleasure at lowering or ignoring the achievements of some, in order to enhance another's lacking. Many refer to it as our unofficial national pastime - "The Tall Poppy Syndrome". It can also be termed as a lack of due respect. I of course am referring to our opponents tonight and the seemingly organised ignorance of their achievements over the past two seasons.

To set the record straight, South Melbourne has, over the past two seasons, stamped their dominance on the National League with successive championships. As the defending National champions, the Victorians have also taken the Oceania Confederation title with an awesome demolition of all challengers in September. This achievement has qualified South Melbourne to represent Oceania and of course Australia at the inaugural World Club Championships to be held in Brazil early in the New Year.

The critics have argued that the quality of opponents defeated is hardly a viable measuring stick to the achievements. However, surely you can only defeat the opponent before you and our visitors have achieved this with great effect over the past 24 months.

The sporting media need reminding and at the risk of being accused of promoting another club at Marconi's expense; this issue is much bigger than that. For it could be our own beloved Stallions in South Melbourne's position this time next year and due respect, is literally the least that can be bestowed upon Australia's champion team of the moment. Please see page 26 - "Stallions Online" - on how you can contribute to raising the bar of exposure for our National League's credibility.

On more present matters, we face an awesome opponent tonight and a team acknowledged as the yardstick by which to measure the feasibility of our lofty ambitions this season. We expect a tough match and of equal importance, an entertaining one. The corresponding match last season, ironically exactly a year to the date, saw one of the most memorable comebacks seen at Marconi Stadium by our Stallions. Now engraved into N.S.L. folklore, the match saw a tally of eight goals, send offs, controversy and an absolute deluge of rain. It was truly legendary stuff and amazingly, the sort of match that the official attendance figure is belittled by comparison with the number of people now stating that they were actually here. Minus any controversy and of course rain, a repeat performance tonight would be a great tonic for our sport and indeed the National Soccer League.

Tonight's Big Match is Proudly presented by:
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emphasising eddie



Our 2-1 victory over Sydney United at Edensor Park last Sunday may not have been one of the silkiest soccer games ever seen, but it was certainly a game that the Marconi players can take a lot of pride in. Local derbies between Marconi and Sydney United have always been passionate encounters and with driving rain making it exceedingly difficult for both sides, it was always going to be a closely fought contest. We went into the game still smarting after a 0-4 loss to Carlton the week before and we were eager, after draws at Parramatta and Perth, to record our first competition victory of the season. That embarrassing 0-4 loss ensured that the players came out determined to show that they were capable of better things, and regain some lost pride. The red card Mark Babic received in the first half made it very difficult for us, but the players showed tremendous character in the second half, to fight back from a goal down and eventually post our first win. One of the bright spots of our game against Sydney United, apart from the return from injury of Captain Brad Maloney, was the performance of our new young goalkeeper, Michael Turnbull, who was making his NSL debut.



Tonight we entertain the current NSL champions, South Melbourne. The majority of the South's side has been together for around 5 years, and they are by any yardstick, a quality side. Having won back to back Australian championships, they will fly to Brazil in January to represent the Oceania confederation in the World Club championship, where they have been drawn against Manchester United. While many will view Marconi as the rank outsiders tonight, it is important to emphasise that while we respect them, we certainly do not fear them, and we are all looking forward to tonight's encounter. Finally, congratulations to Zeljko Babic on being selected in the Socceroo squad for the games against Brazil in November. Zeljko is enjoying an electrifying start to the season, after having suffered in the past from injury, and it is heartening to see his undoubted talent gaining some recognition. "Babba" is one of the fastest players in Australia, and can be a nightmare for defenders. Hopefully, the South Melbourne defence will find out tonight, just how much of a nightmare he can be!



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the bugsy files

Captain of the Marconi Stallions 1999/2000 National Soccer League squad, Brad Maloney, offers readers his views and insights on our team's progress throughout the season.

It's great to get that first win of the season under our belt, and although last Sunday's match against Sydney United could not be considered one to include in a highlights package, the victory served its purpose in reigniting our premiership aspirations.

Sydney United certainly were primed for a big effort, as is always the case when we play each other, and we expected nothing less from our closest geographical rivals. However, after weathering an opening half onslaught of rain and red shirts, the Marconi boys responded with a sensationally gutsy effort to take the points.

It bears reminding that after conceding an own goal in the first 20 minutes, we also had to contend with the sending off of Mark Babic prior to halftime. Both events were effected significantly by the conditions caused by torrential weather. Notwithstanding the fact that we were down a player and a goal, the second 45 minutes saw a reversal of fortunes with our 10 man outfit prevailing 2 - 1 by the end of the match. Whilst it may not have been pretty, the three points were precious.

On a personal note, it was immensely satisfying to finally participate in a meaningful match after an extremely frustrating time on the sidelines. My last league match for Marconi was way back in April - over 6 months ago.

Certainly a long time between drinks so scoring a goal on my return from injury was an added bonus.

We face Australian & Oceania Champions, South Melbourne tonight. The Victorian giants are undoubtedly the best team in the country at present and will be a stern test for us. We want to make amends for our last home match result and look forward to another bumper home crowd.



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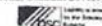
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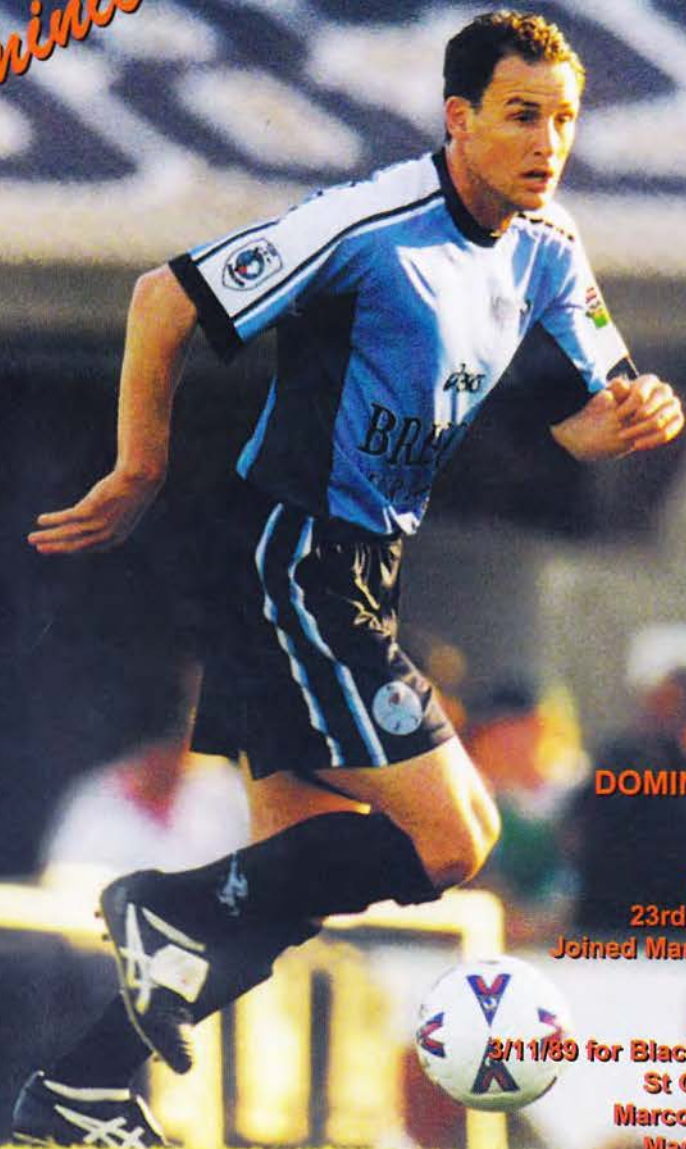
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Dominic Longo



DOMINIC LONGO
Defender

Date of Birth:
23rd August, 1970
Joined Marconi: 1995/96

NSL Debut
3/11/89 for Blacktown City vs
St George (1 - 1)
Marconi Games: 90
Marconi Goals: 3
NSL Games: 136
NSL Goals: 5
International Honours
U/16, U/20, Olympic & Senior

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TOMBOLINI



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... and in the other corner

By Stuart Jones

This week's visitors are the current Oceania and defending N.S.L. champions, South Melbourne. The Victorians are looking to take their first away points of the season after two disappointing trips to Wollongong and Auckland respectively in this campaign. There is sure to be plenty of fire in their bellies and they will be looking to extract revenge from the Stallions after their memorable 5-3 loss here at Marconi Stadium last season. South Melbourne of course is one of three existing foundation teams in the N.S.L. The other two are of course the Stallions and the Adelaide Force. In fact, as of the conclusion of Round 4, both South Melbourne and Marconi had played 650 games in the history of the NSL. Their alltime record (including finals) is included below, courtesy of Andrew Howe.



	1977 - 1999 N.S.L. LADDER	Played	Win	Draw	Loss	Goals for	Goals Against
1	SOUTH MELBOURNE	650	312	153	185	1027	758
2	MARCONI	650	305	152	193	1119	800

HEAD TO HEAD: Marconi's record against South Melbourne (EXCLUDING FINALS)

Played	Win	Draw	Loss	Goal Scored	Goal Against
41	16	9	16	65	69
At Marconi Stadium					
21	8	9	4	38	26

South Melbourne lost Michael Petkovic from goals during the off season but have brought in some fresh faces including Richie Alagich from the now defunct Sharks and Anthony Magnacca from Canberra. However, it will be the familiar faces that will be once again on show today. Michael Curcija has been in scintillating scoring touch recently and he has an able foil in Kiwi international Vaughan Coveny up front. In the midfield is the little master Paul Trimboli alongside the likes of Steve Panapoulos, George Gouzoulis, and David Clarkson. At the back, the attacks come from the flank men like Fausto De Amicis and the enigmatic and exciting Goran Lozanovski.

South Melbourne 1999/2000 Goal Statistics

	0-10	11-20	21-30	31-40	41-45	46-50	51-60	61-70	71-80	81-90
Minutes Scored	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1
Minutes Conceded	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0

Another telling statistic is that in their four matches played this season, Souths have scored just one away from Bob Jane Stadium. Overall it should be an entertaining match, as both Angie Postecoglou and Eddie Krncevic enjoy playing flowing football as evidenced by the grand final a couple of seasons back when Angie's boys took on Eddie's Carlton side. Last season South Melbourne failed to pick up a point in NSW or the ACT and they again failed to gain any from Wollongong this season. Marconi will be looking to turn things around after losing their first home game of the season to another Melbourne team, Carlton, two weeks ago. It promises to be a sensational match.



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the sideline view

with
Fred (Forza) Legget



BUGSY'S BACK

There was no happier sight to the Marconi fans last week than the return of skipper Brad Maloney to the side. Coming on as a second half substitute after missing the opening games through injury, 'Bugsy' not so much hit the back of the net with his equalising shot, as nearly ripped it apart.

Standing behind the goals as he rushed in to shoot, one could see the determination etched on his face, and nothing, absolutely nothing was going to stop him scoring.

Brad scored 16 goals from midfield last season, to finish the season as the club's top scorer.

Interestingly, two of those goals were in the corresponding fixture against South Melbourne, and a repeat of last season, will do us nicely.

WET 'N' WILD

There were probably a few Marconi fans who reported in sick for work last Monday after enduring the non stop torrential rain for most of the game at Edensor Park the day before. To those who braved the elements, a hearty "well done."

And well done to the players too, for taking the time to acknowledge the sodden supporters behind the goals after the final whistle, when it must have been so tempting just to take a short cut to the hot showers in the dressing room. For those of you with a meteorological outlook, you will recall that last season's fixture against South Melbourne was also played in near hurricane conditions, so let's hope the weather gods are a bit kinder tonight.

STAY AT HOME

While I am the first to admit that the Soccer Australia computer which decides the fixtures, and myself have rarely seen eye to eye, this time it seems to have done us a favour; or has it? A quick look at "The Stallions Chronicles" on page 14 shows that if we go back a fortnight and start at round 3, (the Carlton game) then Marconi were drawn to play within their own state of New South Wales for 9 weeks in a row.

I can't recall a similar thing occurring in the past, and while I'm not sure if this is good or bad, it certainly saves on petrol money!

DAY TRIPPERS

A warm welcome to the members of South Melbourne's "Blue and White Army" who have made the long coach trip up from Melbourne for tonight's game. They were due to have arrived this morning around 7-30 am after an all night trip, and planned to spend the day having a BBQ in a local park before watching the match and heading back south not long after the final whistle. Sounds like there could be a few sleepy heads at work in Melbourne tomorrow!

IN GOOD COMPANY

Congratulations to Zeljko Babic on being selected in the Socceroo squad for next month's series of games against the mighty Brazil. Also included in the squad are three former Marconi players, Mark Schwarzer, Steve Corica, and Paul Okon.

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Round 6 vs Newcastle Breakers at Breakers Stadium.

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The Stallions Chronicles

ROUND	DATE	VENUE	OPPONENT	RESULT	POINTS	POSITION	MARCONI GOALSCORERS	CROWD	Gibson	M. Babic	Longo	P. K. Kim	Care	McDonald	Z. Babic	Maloney	Smith	Invincible	Farah	Di Gio'	Awaritefe	Karl	Renaud	Aceski	Marchesini	Trajanovski	Zoric	Hughes
1	1/10/99	A	Paramatta Power	1-1	1	8th	Z. Babic 53m	8,021																				
2	10/10/99	A	Perth Glory	3-3	2	11th	Z. Babic 23, 75m, Gibson 48m	16,176																				
3	17/10/99	H	Carlton	0-4	2	15th	NO STALLIONS SCORER	6,219																				
4	24/10/99	A	Sydney United	2-1	5	8th	Marsley 62m, Chir 65m	3,056																				
5	31/10/99	H	South Melbourne																									
6	5/11/99	A	Newcastle Breakers																									
7	13/11/99	H	Northern Spirit																									
8	21/11/99	A	Sydney Olympic																									
9	28/11/99	H	Wollongong Wolves																									
10	3/12/99	A	Northern Spirit																									
11	11/12/99	H	Kingz F.C.																									
12	18/12/99	A	Gippsland Falcons																									
13	28/12/99	A	Perth Glory																									
14	2/1/00	H	Melbourne Knights																									
15	9/1/00	H	Paramatta Power																									
16	16/1/00	H	Canberra Cosmos																									
17	23/1/00	A	Brisbane Strikers																									
18	29/1/00	H	Brisbane Strikers																									
19	26/1/00	A	Adelaide Force																									
20	2/2/00	H	Perth Glory																									
21	13/2/00	A	Carlton																									
22	20/2/00	H	Sydney United																									
23	27/2/00	A	South Melbourne																									
24	5/3/00	H	Newcastle Breakers																									
25	10/3/00	A	Northern Spirit																									
26	16/3/00	H	Sydney Olympic																									
27	26/3/00	A	Wollongong Wolves																									
28	2/4/00	H	Northern Spirit																									
29	7/4/00	A	Kingz F.C.																									
30	16/4/00	H	Gippsland Falcons																									
31	22/4/00	H	Perth Glory																									
32	25/4/00	A	Melbourne Knights																									
33	30/4/00	H	Adelaide Force																									
34	7/5/00	A	Canberra Cosmos																									

LEGEND: P = Played Entire Match
PS = Started & Substituted
SP = Replacement Substitute
B = Benchded
I = Injured
S = Suspended
YL = Played Youth League
= Did Not play any grade
Rp = Representative Commitments
'Y' (lower case) = Yellow Card
'R' (BOLD) = Red Card

MARCONI STALLIONS vs SOUTH MELBOURNE



Sunday 31st October 1999
Round 5 - 1999/2000 National Soccer League

STALLIONS SQUAD

TURNBULL Michael < 1 >
GIBSON Chad < 2 >
BABIC Mark < 3 >
LONGO Dominic < 4 >
KIM Pan-Keun < 5 >
CARE Christian < 6 >
McDONALD Darren < 7 >
BABIC Zeljko < 8 >
MALONEY Brad < 9 >
SMITH Mike < 10 >

INVINCIBLE Danny < 11 >
FARAH Buddy < 12 >
DI GIA' Pierluigi < 13 >
AWARITEFE Francis < 14 >
KARL Harry < 15 >
RENAUD Brendan < 16 >
ACESKI David < 17 >
MARCHESINI Paolo < 18 >
TRAJANOVSKI Kris < 19 >
ZORIC Vlado < 20 >
JUNIOR SAUTURAGA Josaia < 21 >

SOUTHS SQUAD

Milan UDVARACZ
Steve IOSIFIDIS
Fausto DE AMICIS
Nick ORLIC
Con BLATSIS
David CLARKSON
Steve PANOPOULOS
Vaughan COVENY
Paul TRIMBOLI
Michael CURCIJA
John ANASTASIADIS
Richie ALAGICH
Adrian CUZZUPE
Anthony MAGNACCA
Goran LOZANOVSKI
George GOUTZOULIS
Jim TSEKINIS
Robert LIPAROTI
Tasos PSONIS
Chris JONES

Mustafa MUSTAFA

KRNCEVIC Eddie < COACH > Angie POSTECOGLOU

PREVIOUS FOUR LEAGUE MEETINGS

21st February, 1999 - Round 21 (98/99 N.S.L.): AWAY LOSS 2 - 0
31st October, 1998 - Round 04 (98/99 N.S.L.): HOME WIN 5 - 3
22nd February, 1998 - Round 19 (97/98 N.S.L.): AWAY LOSS 3 - 1
1st November, 1997 - Round 05 (97/98 N.S.L.): HOME DRAW 2 - 2



1999/2000 NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

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TOP ROW: Slavko Njegus (Asst. & Goalie Coach), Stan Ivancic (Physiotherapist), Anthony Crea (Fitness Adviser), Mark Babic, Vlado Zoric, Danny Invincibile, David Aceski, Brett Hughes, Harry Karl, Dominic Longo, Mike Smith, Jean Paul De Marigny (Youth Coach), Joe Mirigiani (Masseur), Mark Crittenden (Gear Steward)

MIDDLE ROW: Buddy Farah, Zeljko Babic, Pierluigi Di Gia', Christian Care, Eddie Krncevic (Head Coach), Brad Maloney, Francis Awaritefe, Darren McDonald, Kris Trajanovski

BOTTOM ROW: Paolo Marchesini, Brendan Renaud, Chad Gibson, Pan Keun Kim

1999/2000 NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

As at Round 4 - 25th October 1999

Position	TEAMS	PLAYED	WIN	DRAW	LOSS	H O M E	A W A Y	PAST 4 RESULTS	GOALS SCORED	GOALS CONCEDED	POINTS	GOAL DIFFERENCE
1	Carlton	4	3	1	0	1-1-0	2-0-0	WDWW	10	2	10	+8
2	Brisbane Strikers	4	3	1	0	1-1-0	2-0-0	WWWD	6	3	10	+3
3	Sydney Olympic	4	2	2	0	0-2-0	2-0-0	DWWD	8	3	8	+5
4	Perth Glory	4	2	2	0	0-2-0	2-0-0	WDWD	7	3	8	+4
5	South Melbourne	4	2	0	2	2-0-0	0-0-2	LWLW	6	3	6	+3
6	Newcastle Breakers	4	1	3	0	0-2-0	1-1-0	DDWD	7	5	6	+2
7	Canberra Cosmos	4	2	0	2	1-0-2	1-0-0	WLLW	6	4	6	+2
8	Marconi Stallions	4	1	2	1	1-0-1	1-2-0	DDLW	6	9	5	-3
9	Wollongong Wolves	4	1	2	1	1-0-1	0-2-0	WDLD	5	8	5	-3
10	Parramatta Power	4	1	1	2	1-1-1	0-0-1	DWLL	6	7	4	-1
11	Sydney United	4	1	1	2	1-0-2	0-1-0	LWDL	4	6	4	-2
12	Northern Spirit	4	1	1	2	0-0-1	1-1-1	WLLD	4	6	4	-2
13	Adelaide Force	4	1	1	2	1-0-0	0-1-2	LLWD	3	6	4	-3
14	Kings F.C.	4	1	1	2	1-0-1	0-1-1	LLWD	3	6	4	-3
15	Gippsland Falcons	4	0	2	2	0-1-1	0-1-1	LDDL	2	6	2	-4
16	Melbourne Knights	4	0	0	4	0-0-2	0-0-2	LLLL	2	8	0	-6

OTHER ROUND 5 MATCHES

FRIDAY 29TH OCTOBER, 1999

Adelaide Force	vs	Carlton	at	Hindmarsh Stadium
Canberra Cosmos	vs	Perth Glory	at	Bruce Stadium
Northern Spirit	vs	Sydney Olympic	at	North Sydney Oval

SATURDAY 30TH OCTOBER, 1999

Brisbane Strikers	vs	Parramatta Power	at	Suncorp Metway Stadium
Gippsland Falcons	vs	Newcastle Breakers	at	Falcons Stadium
Kingz F.C.	vs	Wollongong Wolves	at	North Harbour Stadium

SUNDAY 31ST OCTOBER, 1999

Melbourne Knights	vs	Sydney United	at	Knights Stadium
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NEXT HOME MATCH
MARCONI STALLIONS vs NORTHERN SPIRIT

Sunday 13th November, 1999

Kick Off: 7:00pm

1999/2000 NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE

Northern Division Ladder, as at 11th October, 1999

Position	TEAMS	PLAYED	WIN	DRAW	LOSS	GOALS SCORED	GOALS CONCEDED	POINTS
1	Australian Institute of Sport	4	4	0	0	20	1	12
2	Parramatta Power	4	4	0	0	17	0	12
3	Queensland Academy of Sport	3	2	1	0	14	3	7
4	Northern Spirit (Youth)	3	2	1	0	5	3	7
5	Sydney Olympic (Youth)	2	2	0	0	6	0	6
6	Wollongong Wolves (Youth)	4	2	0	2	3	6	6
7	Northern Spirit (Colts)	3	1	1	1	4	2	4
8	NSW Institute of Sport	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
9	ACT Academy of Sport	3	1	1	1	5	9	4
10	Newcastle Breakers (Youth)	4	1	0	3	1	3	3
11	Sydney United (Colts)	4	1	0	3	7	5	3
12	MARCONI STALLIONS (Youth)	2	1	0	1	2	6	3
13	Sydney Olympic (Academy)	3	1	0	2	7	13	3
14	Sydney United (Youth)	2	0	1	1	0	9	1
15	Newcastle Breakers (Colts)	4	0	0	4	3	11	0
16	MARCONI STALLIONS (Colts)	2	0	0	2	0	8	0
17	Wollongong Wolves (Colts)	3	0	0	3	2	12	0

NATIONAL LEAGUE RESULTS HOTLINE
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NATIONAL LEAGUE SQUADS

national youth league report



with

Jean Paul De Marigny (Youth Coach)

and

Sam D'Alessandro (Colts Coach)



YOUTH TEAM

Frustration is the only word that can describe these opening weeks of the season. Last weekend's torrential weather caused the postponement of our Youth League fixture against Sydney United. We obviously want consistent football action to expedite the gelling of our squad into a force this season, and accordingly look to tonight's match against the Newcastle Breakers Colts team to consolidate our improvement.

On a pleasing note, I am particularly proud of the way the boys handled our heavy opening match defeat to come back with that famous Marconi character. We all know that work is required to address our aims to be the best, and that work ethic has truly come to the fold with this group of young players.

Finally, I am pleased to report that the club has managed to secure a friendly match against Germany's Under 17 National team here at Marconi Stadium. A composite Stallions Youth/Colts team will play the European giants here on Sunday 7th November.



COLTS TEAM

We have been in heavy training this past week after missing out on much needed practice last weekend. Our scheduled match against Sydney Olympic Academy team was also washed out, so like our Youth team, we have played only two matches this season.

Obviously the weather conditions of last week has created additional congestion into an already tight schedule. We anticipate the need to play midweek catch up matches, so it is important we maintain our concentration in all games. It's part of the learning curve.

By the time you read this, we would have played the Sydney United Colts team, (yesterday at Edensor Park). We have been working hard and accordingly anticipate a pleasing result to be announced tonight.

MARCONI YOUTH SQUAD

Goalkeepers - No.40

- 40 Daniel Schwarzer
- 40 Adrian Fabrianese
- 40 Tim West
- 31 Luke Flynn
- 32 Daniel Severino
- 33 Anthony Mondello
- 34 Con Exarhos
- 35 Michael Beauchamp
- 36 Ryan Manente
- 37 Frank DaRoit

Levy Hilton

- 41 Josh Jackett
- 44 Saso Trajceviski
- 45 Nelson McLaughlin
- 46
- 47 Erick Anabalon
- 48 Daniel Lettieri
- 49 Aaron Bennet
- 50 Nathan Rivera
- 51 Anthony Hartshorn

• A maximum of four (4) overage players permitted per match

• Eligible aged players must be born after 1st January, 1981



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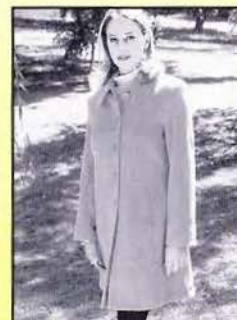
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STALLIONS.ONLINE is devoted to all things happening on the Internet in the world of football. Happy surfing!

Commercial Television Petition

A petition concerning the lack of commercial television coverage given to South Melbourne, in respect to the World Club Championships in Brazil is up and running, with people from all over Australia helping in the distribution of the petition. The goal is to obtain between 10,000 - 20,000 signatures from around Australia and New Zealand.

This petition is not only a petition for South Melbourne Soccer Club fans, it is one for all soccer followers around Australia. If South don't get the commercial television support they deserve now, what chance does any other NSL team, or the NSL itself of getting appropriate media coverage.

Think of it this way, Manchester United have given up the chance of playing in the F.A. Cup to play in this tournament, where one of the teams happens to be our National League Champions, South Melbourne - an AUSTRALIAN team. I hope we can generate support from our Marconi Stallions fans to also get behind this cause in order to accumulate as many people as possible to sign.

We've all complained about the lack of coverage our game receives, so this our chance to have a real say. It will be hand delivered to the three commercial networks, Seven, Nine and Ten as well as the ABC. For more info on this petition, you can e-mail Peter Kartsidimas at:

kartsip@vnotes.roads.vic.gov.au
Or visit the South Melbourne website at:
www.southmelbournesc.com.au

A Bad Case Of The Clap???

Arsenal's new Brazilian signing Silvinho, has yet to truly find his feet. When substituted in the friendly against Notts County, apparently, he was urged by the bench to clap the fans as he trudged off.

This promising figure promptly turned to the County fans and began applauding with some vigour until a member of the Highbury coaching staff helpfully advised him to turn around to his own supporters.

Some Oldies...and Goodies

"People want to try to find a new Pele. They can't do that. You don't find another Beethoven, there's only one Michelangelo. In music you have only one Frank Sinatra and in football, only one Pele!" - **Pele**

"Apples are apples and plums are plums."
Jozef Venglos insisting that all is well at Celtic.

"You must be strong in March, when the fish are down."
Gianluca Vialli.

"I feel like a fish instead of a soccer player. I want to smell grass not chlorine."
Ronaldo tired of rehabilitation swimming.

"The only way he will fly to Athens is if he turns into a pigeon."
Wenger on the chances of Dennis Bergkamp playing against Panathinaikos.

"I do feel for the Newcastle supporters. The club have stolen our thunder recently and become a bigger laughing stock than us."
Manchester City fanzine editor Dave Wallace.

"Make sure you take the opportunity of a lifetime during the lifetime of the opportunity."
Sign in the Stevenage dressing-room.

"Winning the World Cup is the most beautiful thing to have happened to France since the Revolution."
Emmanuel Petit.

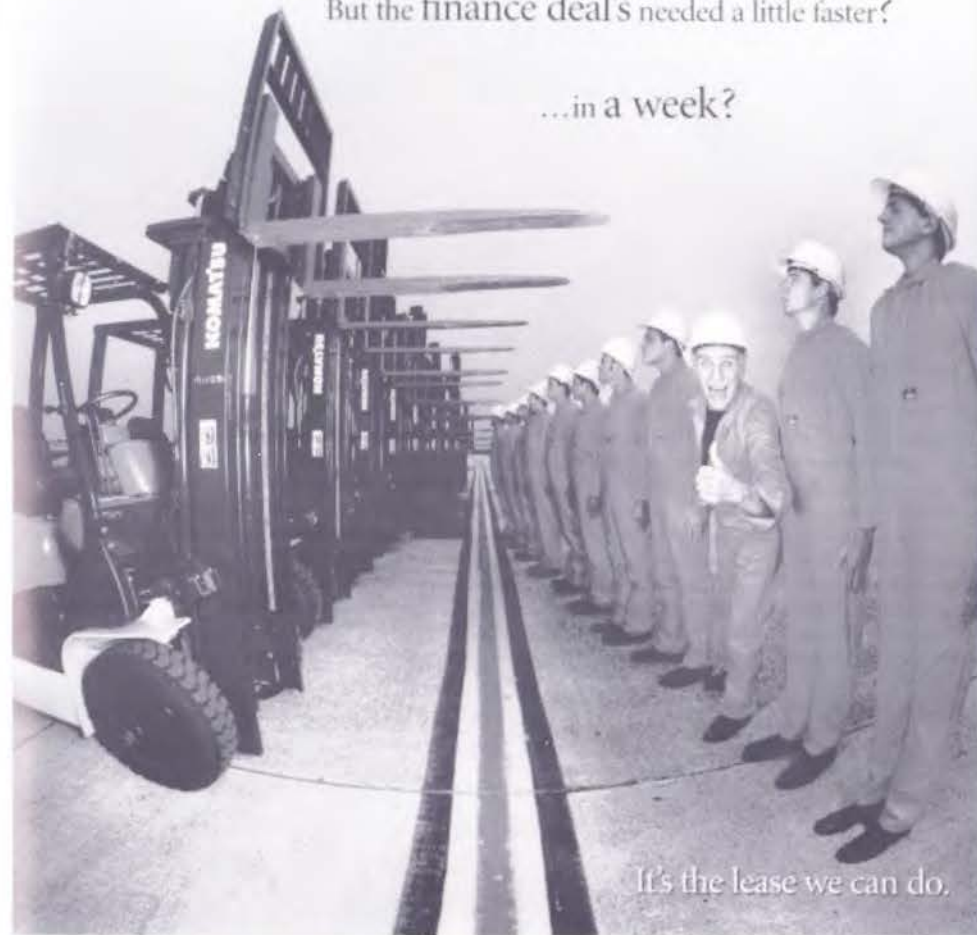
"We've just seen the teams and they both look like they've come here to play football."
Frank Clark on Radio 5 Live's build-up to the FA Cup final.

"John Gregory would fine you for not wearing thongs in the showers"
Dave Carroll, of Wycombe Wanderers, on his former manager.

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